

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1943

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Brightwell House,  
East Street,  
Farnham.

November, 1944.

To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Farnham.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report for the year  
1943 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of Farnham.

As in the past two years, no information is  
included which might be of assistance to the enemy in  
relation to population, war-time industries, etc.

The war has fortunately affected the area to a  
very small extent and such problems as have arisen have been  
overcome without great difficulty.

Once again, I welcome this opportunity of  
expressing my appreciation of the work done by the staff of  
the Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. BEDO HOBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The increase of population owing to the influx of evacuees has remained fairly constant throughout the year, and the Billeting Officer has at times had difficulty in finding accommodation but it has not been necessary to apply compulsory powers.

Inevitably, there have been some cases of overcrowding but these have not been of a serious nature.

## VITAL STATISTICS

In accordance with instructions given in Circular 2604, no figures relating to local populations are given in this report. It can, however, be stated that the birth rate for 1943 was almost as high as in 1942, which showed a considerable increase on previous years. The death rate is rather higher but remains about the pre-war figure.

The death rate of infants under one year of age is higher than usual but approximates to the average figure for England and Wales.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There has been no change in the laboratory, ambulance or blood transfusion services, nor in the arrangements for nursing in the home.

The Clinics and Treatment Centres remain as in 1942.

The W.V.S., and ambulance personnel of the A.R.P., services have performed useful work in transporting patients to and from the hospitals, and the W.V.S., gave help in the home during the influenza epidemic in November and December.

At one time during the year accommodation for maternity cases in the Farnham County Hospital was inadequate, largely owing to the influx of evacuees with insufficient accommodation or assistance at home. After a conference with the County Medical Officer, arrangements were made for cases that could not be dealt with at the Farnham County Hospital to be admitted to Warren Road Hospital, Guildford.

## THE CURATIVE POST

This Clinic has continued to do very useful work and is a distinct asset to the Town.

## HOSPITALS

### FARNHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL

The work of this hospital is steadily increasing every year. It is an E.M.S. hospital and specially designated for orthopaedic work.

Much of the accommodation is obsolete and would have been demolished or modernised had it not been for the war.

The increasing use which is being made of this hospital, particularly by out-patients, and in the physiotherapy department, is making working conditions rather difficult and a rebuilding scheme is required at the earliest possible moment after the war.

Whether or not Aldershot and district will be grouped with Farnham in the post war regionalisation of hospitals, it seems likely that this hospital will continue to be an asset to the district and will have to be retained.

### TRIMMERS COTTAGE HOSPITAL

Difficulty in obtaining staff has prevented this hospital being used to capacity and three private wards and the children's ward have remained closed. It has, however, continued to serve a useful purpose in the district and also deals with tonsil and adenoid cases on behalf of the Education Committee.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL

This hospital, which is shared with the Haslemere, Hambledon and Guildford Rural Districts, has a high proportion of cubicle wards and is dealing with a great variety of infectious conditions. During the measles epidemic in April and May the old diphtheria block was opened for the reception of severe cases of measles.

### HOSTELS FOR EVACUEE CHILDREN

There are several hostels in the district, as follows :-

Woodlands, Lodge Hill Road, administered by the local Council, has 18 beds and has served a very useful purpose in providing temporary accommodation for evacuee children and for others for whom it was impossible to find suitable billets.

Merlewood, Lodge Hill Road, administered by the Waifs and Strays Society, has 22 beds and deals with children evacuated from London.

Witley Park, with 29 beds and administered by the Red Cross, takes children aged two to five from the London area.

Black Lake Home, with accommodation for 22 children of the two to five age group, is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Al Aman, Lower Bourne, provided and run by the Nawab of Bwalapur, has 28 beds for children under five.

All these hostels have been well occupied, and the Day Nursery at the old Trimmers Hospital in East Street has been increasingly used during the year.

The Guildford R.D.C., has been very helpful in admitting to their sick bays evacuee children who could not be treated in the hostels.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Under war-time conditions the health of the district has been surprisingly good and, apart from an epidemic of measles and a slight increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever, there has been comparatively little infectious disease.

Arrangements were made for complicated cases of measles to be admitted to the Isolation Hospital but it was not found necessary to use these facilities to any great extent.

It is satisfactory to note that there was only one case of diphtheria notified during the year and that was in an adult who had not been immunised.

Only one case of cerebro spinal meningitis and two cases of polio-encephalitis, diseases which tend to occur under war-time conditions, were notified.

There were a few cases of scabies, chiefly among factory workers, but never in any number, and they were satisfactorily dealt with by A.R.P., personnel at the First Aid Post.

Diphtheria immunisation has continued steadily throughout the year and at the end of December, 1943, it was



estimated that 38.75 of the 0-5 age group and 84.37 of the 5-15 group had been immunised. Increasing attention is being paid to the 0-5 group, which is necessarily more difficult to get hold of.

No case of diphtheria occurred in a child.

There was a mild epidemic of influenza in November and December and a few cases of influenzal pneumonia were notified.

Propaganda against venereal disease was carried out by means of posters and notices exhibited on hoardings and in public lavatories.

Films on the diagnosis and treatment of scabies, and blood transfusion were exhibited to selected audiences.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the district during 1943 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
25 - 35	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
35 - 45	3	3	1	1	0	2	0	0
45 - 55	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
55 - 65	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
65 and over	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
Totals	11	9	6	6	4	2	3	0

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1943

The following is a list of notifiable diseases, classified in age groups, reported during 1943 :-

Infectedious Disease.	At all ages	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	73	1	1	3	4	5	37	9	1	9	1	2	0	55	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	11	0
Pneumonia	12	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	4	2	0	18
Poliomyelitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Measles	530	15	27	47	46	56	283	35	6	6	7	1	1	18	0
Whooping Cough	32	2	3	5	3	3	6	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dysentery	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

Reports upon samples taken from the two sources of water supply for the Urban District have been received regularly each month and reported to the appropriate Committee. All have been perfectly satisfactory.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1943

In accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, the following classified table is submitted of (a) the number and nature of inspections made during the year; (b) the number of notices served during the year; (c) the result of the services of such notices :-

(a) Number and nature of inspections made during the year :-

#### Dwellinghouses

Number inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	998
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Number of inspections made, including re-inspections and visits to works in progress	...	1516
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#### Other Premises (Inspections and Re-inspections)

1. Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	0
2. Meat and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	1857
3. Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	378
4. Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	84
5. Factories	...	...	...	...	255
6. Shops	...	...	...	...	199
7. Offices	...	...	...	...	0
8. Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	62
9. Mushroom Farms	...	...	...	...	16
10. Visits re Cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	89
11. Visits re Miscellaneous Complaints	...	...	...	...	582
12. Visits re Complaints under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	128
13. Visits re Disinfestation of Premises	...	...	...	...	10

(b) Notices Served :-

Number of preliminary notices served under the Public Health, Housing and Other Acts ... ..	122
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(c) Results of Notices :-

1. Preliminary Notices -

(a) Complied with in 1943 ..	...	102
(b) Work not commenced ...	...	20
		<u>122</u>

2. Statutory Notices -

(a) Complied with in 1943 ..	...	19
(b) Work not commenced ....	...	1
		<u>20</u>

SHOPS

All shops where workers are employed were visited during the year and conditions found to be satisfactory.

During the year, 199 inspections were carried out.

SWIMMING BATHS

The water filtration and purification plant installed at the Public Swimming Baths in the Town continued to function satisfactorily, and samples obtained and taken to the analyst produced satisfactory results.

Smaller Swimming Pools attached to local schools were kept under observation and results of samples were also satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Minor infestations only were reported during the year in a few Council dwellings and these were successfully dealt with by treatment with "Zaldecide" and the efforts of the occupiers.

One large private residence was cleared by the London Fumigation Company.



## SCHOOLS

During the year, the earth closets at the Senior Church of England School at Wrecclesham were abolished. A new water carriage system was provided and connected up to the Council's main sewer.

The Church of England Girls School in the Town still retains its Trough system of sanitation. All other schools in the district are well constructed and equipped with modern lavatories.

## HOUSING

Housing inspections were continued during the year and every help and assistance was given to owners and builders towards obtaining the necessary labour and materials for the carrying out of essential repairs and renovations. The number of dwellings visited totalled 998.

Overcrowding occurred in some eleven dwellings but with the help of the Council's Tenants Selection Committee these were overcome and no serious nuisance existed at the close of the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

### MILK SUPPLY

All dairies, cowsheds and milk shops were regularly and frequently inspected during the year and several improvements, particularly to dairy farm buildings, dairies and drainage systems were completed.

In seven cases the dairies attached to farms were improved and brought up-to-date. New apparatus and equipment was installed at five premises.

The general results of samples taken for bacteriological analysis during the year were satisfactory.

There is no doubt that the frequent taking of samples at the farms and dairies tends to create interest among the employees and it has been found that every effort is made to obtain good results.

The following summary shows the results of samples taken during the year :-

Designation	Taken	Satisfactory	Not in all respects	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	17	14	3	0
Accredited	17	8	4	5
Ordinary	70	39	11	20
Totals	104	61	18	25

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Distribution of home killed and imported meat to the district was continued from the Aldershot Depot. The transport vans were regularly inspected and no complaint could be made regarding their cleanliness.

Regular and frequent inspections of all the food shops were made throughout the year. 1,857 visits were made during the year.

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned and removed as unfit for human consumption :-

Commodity	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Pork ... ..	1	0	11
Mutton ... ..			19
Beef ... ..	11	2	10
Veal ... ..		1	9
	13	0	21
Corned Beef, Chopped Ham, etc. ...	12	2	20 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vegetables ... ..	8	3	23
Bacon ... ..	1	2	10
Fish ... ..	17	2	17 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese ... ..			5
Fruit ... ..	1	0	6
Jam and Marmalade ... ..		2	15
Sausages . ... ..	1	3	26
Butter ... ..			$\frac{3}{4}$
Sugar ... ..			4
Spaghetti ... ..		1	0
Flour ... ..			12

Chocolate	...	...	...	...	2	26
Slab Cake	...	...	...	...		25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea	...	...	...	...		13 $\frac{1}{2}$
					2 tons 6 0	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total					2 tons 19 1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

302 tins Milk                      26 cartons Shredded Wheat  
 113 packets Egg Powder        19 tins Soup and Broth  
 60 $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen Eggs                18 $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen Meat Pies  
                                      1 jar Fish Paste

### ADULTERATION

Administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938, is carried out by the Surrey County Council.

The following is a summary of the results of samples taken during 1943 :-

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Deteriorated			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
Milk	41	0	41	3	0	3	0	0
Flour (Egg S.R.)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	41	1	42	3	0	0	0	0

